

in general, and to resist any attempt to move our great nation back in time to our ugly legacy of racial injustice, insensitivity and intolerance, now therefor be it

*Resolved* That the members of the Congressional Black Caucus hereby, without rancor or malice, condemn Senator Byrd's racist statement and the sentiment of lingering intolerance it reflects. We respectfully request all members of the House and Senate to publicly and privately convey a similar condemnation; be it further

*Resolved* That this proclamation of Condemnation be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD; and be it further

*Resolved*, That United States Senator Robert Byrd make his statements of apology from the floor of the U.S. Senate.

THE INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RATE REDUCTION ACT OF 2001

HON. MAC COLLINS  
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Individual Income Tax Rate Reduction Act. This legislation will provide immediate, across the board marginal income tax rate reductions for all wage earners in this country, while reducing the marriage tax penalty.

A new day has arrived in Washington. The new President is leading the effort to focus national attention on the issues that Americans support. This week, Congress has taken the first step to implement tax code changes that will benefit all wage earners. The marginal income tax rate reductions proposed by the President, reported by the Committee on Ways and Means, on which I serve, and recently passed by the House of Representatives, will have a tremendous impact on providing individuals and families with greater financial security. At a time when the federal coffers have billions of dollars in excess revenues, coupled with the slowing growth of the economy, is more appropriate than ever to provide a refund to taxpayers who have overpaid the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support the legislation that has been passed by the House of Representatives. But frankly I believe we can do more. Today I introduce legislation that will reduce the marginal income tax rates. However, at the center of this legislation is my belief that we must reduce the amount of taxes taken out of paychecks today. My legislation makes effective immediately a reduction in all of the marginal rates. In addition, over the next few years, the number of rates will be reduced from 5 to 4.

Current law	Collins bill	Effective
15 percent .....	12 percent .....	Jan. 1, 2001.
28 percent .....	25 percent .....	Jan. 1, 2001.
31 percent .....	28 percent .....	Jan. 1, 2001.
36 percent to 39.6 percent	33 percent .....	Phased down Jan. 1, 2001 to Jan. 1, 2006.

My legislation will also reduce the marriage tax penalty by increasing the standard deduction for all taxpayers, and making the married deduction twice that of the single taxpayer's deduction.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Current law	Collins bill	Effective date
\$7,600 .....	\$12,000 .....	Jan. 1, 2001.
\$4,500 .....	\$6,000 .....	Jan. 1, 2001.
\$6,650 .....	\$8,500 .....	Jan. 1, 2001.

This legislation will provide taxpayers with over \$30 billion in tax relief this year alone. Over the next ten years, wage earners will see their income tax bills reduced by over \$1.5 trillion. It is anticipated that the Congressional Budget Office will soon update their projected budgetary estimates and report that there will be billions more available in unanticipated non-Social Security excess revenues. That is more reason than ever to provide taxpayers with meaningful tax reductions. Please join me in cosponsoring the Individual Income Tax Rate Reduction Act of 2001, so that we can provide tax relief as soon as possible.

DISAPPROVING DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RULE RELATING TO ERGONOMICS

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this harmful resolution which will prevent America's workers from safer working conditions.

Over two years ago, Congress mandated that the National Academy of Sciences conduct a study to review the impact of repetitive workplace motions. Now that the results are back, the Republican majority is disappointed. They don't like the results. So, they are trying to kill the rule entirely.

This Disapproval Resolution is simply another attempt to delay and ultimately block implementation of critical ergonomic workplace guidelines. These reasonable standards, already issued by the Department of Labor, will ensure that workplace safety guidelines are in place to prevent increasingly common workplace injuries.

More than 647,000 Americans suffer serious injuries and illness due to musculo-skeletal disorders each year. These injuries are currently costing businesses \$15 to \$20 billion annually in workers' compensation costs. Yet, it has been estimated that the ergonomics standards will prevent 4.6 million injuries over the next decade, and will actually save employers and workers \$9 billion each year.

Tragically, these injuries disproportionately affect women workers. Although women make up 46 percent of the workforce and 33 percent of those injured, 63 percent of repetitive motion injuries happen to women.

Women experience 70 percent of carpal tunnel syndrome injuries that result in lost work time. This is unacceptable and we must act now to prevent these injuries.

Americans who are willing to work hard each day to support themselves and their families deserve reasonable standards to prevent workplace injuries.

Many of the workers who will be covered by these common sense guidelines often work more than one job just to make ends meet.

They work long hours loading trucks, moving boxes, and delivering packages. Their jobs aren't easy, but they are willing to show up every day and do their best.

The last thing these hard-working Americans want is to get hurt. These sensible standards will keep them on the job and prevent costly workplace injuries.

Opponents of these common-sense guidelines claim that they will "regulate every ache and pain in the workplace." This is simply not true. These standards will only ensure that companies make someone responsible for ergonomics standards and that employees are not afraid to report these injuries. This is hardly an overwhelming request.

We must keep the Ergonomics standards in place. These standards protect hard-working Americans who deserve to work without the threat of injury.

I urge all of my colleagues to stand with hard-working Americans and to oppose this harmful legislation.

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY MARCH 17,  
2001

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN  
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on March 17th, again we approach another glorious, joyous Saint Patrick's Day. The Irish people around the globe, along with the millions here in our nation linked to the Emerald Isle by heritage, as well as their friends worldwide, join in celebrating this glorious day honoring the patron saint of that beautiful country of so many warm and generous people.

The American experience is linked closely with the Irish people. Ireland has given us numerous Presidents with links to both the north and south. Its diaspora fought for our nation as early as with General George Washington as we gained our own independence from Great Britain. Today, more than 44 million Americans claim Irish heritage.

It is only fitting that our nation assist the Irish people in finding lasting peace and justice in the north of Ireland and in ending the bitter, divisive, and tragic conflict, that the Irish call the "Troubles." For the past eight years the U.S. Congress in a bipartisan way fully supported President Clinton in all of his Irish peace process initiatives which eventually helped produce the Good Friday Accord of April 1998, under the guidance and steady hand of former U.S. Senator George Mitchell.

The Good Friday Accord is the road map for lasting peace and justice in the north of Ireland, which we and all the parties to that accord, as well as both governments in the region should honor, abide by, and use for the new shared governance created so that both traditions can live in harmony, peace, and equality in the north under the concept of mutual consent. The Irish people north and south approved the accord in referendum. They want peace!

Now, with a new Administration coming to power in Washington, many wonder if the Irish peace process will be given the same priority